

HOUSE RESOLUTION 398

By Godsey

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Bristol Deputy Fire Chief Gary A. Maiden for his meritorious service to Tennessee and for being recognized by the United States Department of Defense with the My Boss is a Patriot Award.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans have continued this time-honored tradition of volunteerism; Bristol Deputy Fire Chief Gary A. Maiden is one such individual who served gallantly in the United States Air Force and continues to provide his fullest support to our national defense and the men and women who perpetuate that cause; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Defense recently recognized Deputy Chief Maiden with the My Boss is a Patriot Award, which recognizes an employer's support of military reserve duty; Army National Guard Squadron Commander Dennis Adams presented Deputy Chief Maiden with a certificate from the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves, which each annually recognizes employers who institute and practice personnel policies that support a strong Guard and Reserve force; and

WHEREAS, Lonnie Barrett, a codes enforcement officer for the city and member of the Guard's 2<sup>nd</sup>/278<sup>th</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment, nominated Chief Maiden for the honor and said, "Deputy Chief Maiden is highly supportive of my service, even when I am called on short notice...I never have to worry about job security because I know that he would never penalize me for serving"; and

WHEREAS, himself a veteran, Gary Maiden is well aware of the vital importance of a strong national defense and of dedicated citizen soldiers; he served nobly in the United States Air Force in Vietnam and has remained a stalwart supporter of the military, veterans' groups, the Guard, and Reserve; and

WHEREAS, a leader in efforts to support the military, he was recently elected Junior Vice Commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6975 in Bristol; and

WHEREAS, his military stint included a year's service in firefighting and crash rescue at a landing base in Thailand, close to the front lines; that service prepared him for a thirty-year career in firefighting in which he has served and protected the people of Bristol with courage, dedication, acumen, and alacrity; and

WHEREAS, Deputy Chief Maiden has performed his duties with the utmost skill, dedication, and professionalism, and his service can only be categorized as outstanding; he deserves proper recognition for heroism both in the military and in society today; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby honor and commend Bristol Deputy Fire Chief Gary A. Maiden for his meritorious service, offering our thanks for a difficult job well done, and join in celebrating his receiving the My Boss is a Patriot Award from the United States Department of Defense.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.